MODIFIED PTO/SB/08a (05-07)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

	Approved for use through 11/30/2007.
Application Number	10/540,250
Confirmation Number	8274
Filing Date	June 22, 2005
First Named Inventor	Shigeo SHIRAKURA
Art Unit	4116
Examiner Name	Matthew E HOBAN
Attorney Docket Number	Q88724

				U.S. PATENTS	}	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1.					

	U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code ¹	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1.					

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number ³	Country Code ²	Kind Code⁴	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Τ⁵
	1.	57-113834	JP	Α	1982-07-15	HITACHI ZOSEN CORP		Abstract

		NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	T ⁵
	1.	English translation of International Preliminary Report on Patentability for PCT/JP2003/016773 dated August 25, 2005	

EXAMINER SIGNATURE				
Examiner	Date			
Signature	Considered			

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. 2 Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 3 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 4 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 5 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.